(ix) Special efforts to cover more area under rabi maize in the States of Bihar and eastern U.P.

(x) Greater emphasis was laid for improving plant protection measures, increased overall availability of certified/improved varieties of seeds and fertilisers, expansion of National Watershed Development Programme in rainfed areas; easy and adequate availability of credit alongwith effective extension support for sustainable development in agriculture.

(c) The progress of the above strategy programme implementation is being monitored/reviewed periodically by the Crop Weather Watch Group headed by Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Officers have also visited the States to review the progress on the spot and provide necessary assistance for removing constraints, if any. Meetings and discussions, have also been arranged with State Government officials, particularly in North-East, Eastern as well as North-West States to review their requirements and progress.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Petrol/Diesel Outlets in Hilly Districts of Uttar Pradesh

2345. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of diesel and petrol retail outlets in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Pauri and Chamoli districts have the required number of petrol and diesel retail outlets in accordance with this criteria;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for opening of more diesel retail outlets in the said two districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (d). There are 10 retail outlets in Pauri and 5 retail outlets in Chamoli districts of U.P. New petrol/diesel retail outlets are opened in different places as per Marketing Plans, availability of products, etc. There is no separate criteria for opening retail outlets in hilly areas.

Subarnarekha Multi-Purpose Project

2346. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the Subarnarekha Multi-purpose Project in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). A statement giving the progress of work on various components of the Subarnarekha Multi-purpose se Project and the schedule of completion is attached.